



CITY HALL PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Workshop #1 September 29, 2005

NOTES

Introductions, Cheryl Fraser

- PAT members
- Nakano Assoc and Jerry Ernst

Project Overview

- **Scope** -- This project is part of the Mayor's initiative to improve downtown parks. Transform City Hall Park into an attractive gateway to downtown Seattle. The scope of work for this project is to be developed through a community process with consideration for potential impacts on nearby parks and open spaces.
- **Schedule** -- Planning and Schematic Design in 2005, Final design and Construction in 2005
- **Budget** -- \$100,000 for planning and initial design. \$400,000 in 2006 budget for final design and construction.

Existing Conditions

- Jerry Ernst - park and surround conditions,

B.J. Brooks, Deputy Superintendent

- Downtown Open Spaces Strategy (Description of Mayor's Downtown Strategy and the Downtown Parks and Open Spaces Task Force)

Discussion Draft Vision for City Hall Park

- David Goldberg provided an overview of Vision (attached)

Comments from Audience

- Q. At what point does the process consider the history of the site?
R. The history is considered from the outset. The project will be reviewed by the Pioneer Square Preservation Board. The intent is to acknowledge the history but to ensure that the park responds to existing conditions and meets the current needs of the community.
- When in did the park become neglected?
R. (from Parks and audience) It has been maintained and received an upgrade in the 1990's after the bus tunnel project, however the perception of lack of safety has existed since at least the mid 1980s.
- Q. How can the project consider improvements when there are larger issues, such as homelessness?
R. The project acknowledges larger issues and tries to address what it can in the scope of the improvements. Improving the park cannot wait for larger societal issues to be addressed.
- Q. Are we spending money that will end up being neglected like Fortson Square?
R. The involves programming, management and physical improvements, as well as partnerships with surrounding stakeholders to create ownership.
- Comment. Consider immediate low-cost improvements such as, better management, lighting and better arrangement of benches.
- Comment. Survey residents and workers to identify what programs they want and would encourage them to use the park.
- Comment. Close Dilling Way. It's the biggest drug dealing area.

- Comment. The circulation and connections in the area and through the park are poor.
- Comment. The surrounding environment does not embrace the park. On the E?W sides, 4th and 3rd Avenues have a lot of traffic, that doesn't or can't see into the park. The north side of the park is the loading dock for the Courthouse. Dilling Way, the underground tunnel to the Courthouse and Yesler on the south side are bad areas.
- Comment. Create better connections between City Hall Park, Prefontaine Place, Fortson Square and the rest of Pioneer Square.
- Comment. Consider limbing trees up to increase sunlight.

Visioning Exercise 6:00

- Opportunities and Constraints – David Goldberg introduced the exercise designed to answer, “What are the opportunities and constraint within and surround City Hall Park to achieving the Vision?”
- Attendees recorded their observations during a site visit. See attached

Summary & Next Steps (at Tashiro - Kaplan) 6:30

- Refine Vision -- What we heard
- Begin Schematic Design – What we'll do with the information

